



PROGRAM GOES MANDATORY IN '79

The big news concerning our program comes from the passing of House Bill 1458 by the North Dakota legislature. Copies of the bill are enclosed with all newsletters. You will see that the law becomes effective on January 1, 1979 and that persons born since December 31, 1961 are included in its intent.

The bill was introduced by representative Henry Weber of Cass County on behalf of the Casselton Wildlife Club. Legislative co-sponsors were representatives Richter and Mund of Bismarck. The bill was a prime legislative goal of United Sportsmen of North Dakota. The group lobbied strongly for passage through Jim Collins. Collins is a hunter safety - education instructor (instructor of the year, 1974) and member of the Game & Fish Advisory Board.

In promoting H.B. 1458 United Sportsmen, legislators and other supporters recognized the current state of hunting and hunter quality in North Dakota. As hunter safety - education instructors familiar with the content of our course we recognize the value to be found in achieving our common goal - the improvement of hunter knowledge and behavior. Thus the value of our program was well presented and well received. The votes in favor of the proposal were overwhelming majorities in both houses of the legislature.

a challenge

The challenge issued by the legislature is a mammoth one - for all of us. The first realization to make is

■ June, 2009

30 Years Later... 175,000 Graduates!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of mandatory hunter education in North Dakota. I'm not sure the legislators in place at that time could have envisioned what it has actually meant for safer and better educated hunters for North Dakota. Granted, not all of us have had to take the class since those born before 1962 and those hunting on their own land are exempt but it has been landmark legislation and well worth the time and effort. But we're not done yet. It sometimes takes generations to 'break the habit' of some but we're well on our way.

I can speak to the statistics of how many have been put through the program and the decline in hunting accidents during that time frame. And while important it's only part of the picture. One of the more important aspects of this successful program is the hundreds of thousands of volunteer instructor hours that have made this program a resounding success. Granted, it takes everyone working together but it's a credit to you, as instructors, and the spirit of North Dakotans in general that many are willing to take time teaching these classes. You, and those in the past, could just as easily have used that time to spend with your family or recreating. But you chose to use the time to pass on your passion for the heritage of hunting so it can continue to flourish for future generations. A simple thank you isn't nearly enough but it's the best I can do on paper. So—thank you for all you've done for the future of hunting in North Dakota. And with volunteers such as all of you, I predict the next 30 years will be even better!

Terry Steinwand, Director
North Dakota Game & Fish Department

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2008-2009 Legislation

Two new laws that impact the Hunter Education Program were passed during the recent legislative session. The short answer is that I am in favor of all of these changes! I firmly believe that they will assist in recruiting hunters, allow more access to the course and open up new opportunities for young hunters.

1. The Apprentice Hunting License will introduce potential hunters to the experience of hunting, as opposed to taking the course and then decide that they don't like to hunt. This is a once in a lifetime license and individuals will be required to complete Hunter Education in order to purchase a license if they choose to continue hunting.

2. The Home Study "on-line course" (I questioned this one since we've offered one for 5 years) will continue to offer more flexibility to those that can't commit to the traditional classroom course. The only change to our existing on-line course would be to consider dropping the initial session with the instructor. The student will still be required to complete the 14 quizzes and participate in the final session (review, written exam and practical). One way is to establish teams of instructors that would schedule a "Field Day" on a regular basis and students will enroll on-line. Several states have used this and it works, but we will have to figure out a system that allows flexibility for you and accessibility for the students. Gun handling is the main concern with the on-line course; instructors are encouraged to incorporate an optional 2-4 hour gun handling session prior to the final session.

Opposition to the legislation revolved around two general comments: "That's just more hunters to compete with" or "Younger hunters will result in more incidents". Not true, all of the reports and statistics show that the average age of those involved in hunting related incidents is 30 – 45 year olds! Yes, we have had young hunters involved in incidents and no matter what we do, some incidents will occur. I can tell you that our graduates are safe when they leave our classrooms, but we can't control what happens after that. It's much like getting a driver's license, pass the test, go out into the world and learn bad habits!

I have been in contact with other states that have introduced similar programs, most recently Missouri – they have had zero incidents since initiating their Apprentice program. Kansas is in their first full year of Apprentice hunting and it's been well received, over 400 licenses and the average age has been 18. I think we can expect between 100-150 licenses and that might be pushing it.

Another bill that passed was reducing the age to hunt deer, from 14 to 12. This will offer more opportunities for our youth, at a younger age that will encourage them to start hunting or to continue hunting. As far as lowering the age, North Dakota is one of only two states that remain at 14 to hunt big game, the other is New York! And if you are concerned about "more competition", think about how selfish that is, because you couldn't, they shouldn't? If a 12 or 13 year old is not ready to hunt, that is a decision that their parents have to make since they are the ones that best know the readiness and maturity level of their children. It's putting the responsibility back where it belongs!

If we are to compete with all of the other activities that confront our youth, we have to reach them before age 14. We have to get them outside, away from the PlayStation, television, internet, texting and twittering! One of our goals as HE Instructors is pass on our hunting heritage through awareness and education and we are losing that fight to technology and a misinformed public.

These new strategies have proven very successful in recruiting and retaining hunters in other states. In the past 5 years, over 22 states have initiated legislation similar to this. Let's not dwell in the past and hang on to how it used to be. That will not move us forward at the challenges we face in maintaining the number of hunters in the future. Hunters are a very small minority and if we don't take care of ourselves, pull together and speak as one voice, we WILL lose the battle.

I believe that after 30 years of mandated Hunter Education in North Dakota, these legislative changes fall in line with successes recently experienced in other states and will move us forward in the right direction!

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Fair

July 24 - August 1, 2009 @ Minot

Regional Workshops

TBD @ Dickinson

TBD @ Minot

TBD @ Grand Forks

January 16, 2010 @ Fargo

Annual Conference

Feb. 13-15, 2010 @ Bismarck Ramkota

**Put it on your calendar
and we'll see you there!**

"A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends upon the character of the user."

--Theodore Roosevelt

ND State Fair “Pathways to Hunting” Looking for a few good volunteers!

It's that time of year again that we are asking for your support at the State Fair, July 24th – Aug 1st. We cover various informational and activity stations, including a brief demonstration on gun handling and marksmanship and an opportunity to shoot on the air rifle ranges. You are invited to come up and help out, it is a great time to work a little bit, relax, and enjoy some barbeque and cool refreshments!

Please consider participating in this worthwhile event for a day or two or three! It is fun and well received by thousands of youth and adults each year. Lodging will be reimbursed for those that spend two days and live more than 50 miles from Minot. Call Steph at 800-421-8358 or 701-328-6615.

HE Student Exam

The revised exam is complete. As you order your course materials, you will be receiving all new exams and answer sheets, along with an instructor copy and answer key. The exam booklet is not to be written on, students will record all answers on the answer sheet; you should announce this before you hand out the exam. I would recommend numbering your exam booklets, this will assist you in accounting for all of them as students hand them in. Your instructor copy has the correct answers highlighted and a page number that refers you to where the answer is in the manual. Not all of the answers are “word for word” in the manual and if that's the case, the page number indicates where you can insert this discussion point. While these answers are not right out of the manual, I feel strongly that they are important, common sense topics that are hunting safety concerns (these are issues that will be considered when we revise the manual). The “A CHUM SPORT” is on the answer sheet, not in the exam booklet. Ensure that your students complete all portions of the exam! You also have a transparency overlay to use in the scoring of the test. The practical pass/fail is on the backside of the answer sheet. 90% is the passing score, which means that more than 6 wrong will require retesting or retaking the course.

“Would I Go Hunting With This Individual?”

That's the question you should be asking yourself when it comes to passing or failing your students. I've been asked how much flexibility do instructors have – bottom line is that you are there in the classroom, I'm not! If you feel that a student has been given every chance to legitimately pass the course and still has obvious issues with either the written or practical, don't pass them. I encourage you to work with your students to the point that you are comfortable that you have given them every chance. Many of you have gone above and beyond the minimum requirement and I applaud your effort and dedication. Most of our students are successful; however there are a few that might just need to retake the course! I trust that you are doing the right thing and will make the right decision, as long as it's done fair and equitably across the board. As instructors and you fail a student, you do have a responsibility to explain to the student why they didn't pass the course. That's only fair to them and to the program should they decide to retake the course!

North Dakota Hunter Educator's Association (NDHEA)

As a certified instructor you are eligible to become a member of our NDHEA, please contact the membership chairman, Charles Vasicek, 701-223-9797 or cvasicek@bis.midco.net. Together, we can work towards improving an already outstanding program through additional programs and activities. Visit the NDHEA website at www.ndhea.org for more information.



**HUNTER
EDUCATION
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS**

For Class Supplies: 1-800-421-8358
For Procedure and Policy Questions: 1-701-328-6316

Recruiting New Instructors

Continue your outstanding efforts in recruiting new instructors! You are recruiting your assistants and replacements, so select those that are the best of the best for the future of our program! One of the things that I stress to all new instructors is how important assisting a veteran instructor is and to be very comfortable before you take on the lead role.

Welcome to our new instructors: Gerard Zlotkowski, Ashley; Ruth Johnson, Belfield; Jamie Bradley, Beulah; Robert Reikow, Bismarck; Kendall Peterson, Devils Lake; Catherine Logosz, Dickinson; Jason Carrol, Edgeley; Kim Oien, Elgin; David Lipp, Fargo; Kathy Needham, Gackle; Lindsay Elsner, Galesburg; Andrew Majeras, Garrison; Kevin Fire, Grand Forks; Brendan Ciesynski, Gwinner; Stephen Stensgard, Jamestown; Matthew Deal, Kensal; Jennifer Eckberg, Manvel; Joseph Stanley, Mapleton; Kent Paulson, Mayville; Jennifer Ziebarth, Minot; Dan Turner, Northwood; Tim Olson, Park River; Gerald Dixon, Parshall; Cassie Felber, Towner; Richard Lehmann, Towner and Bernard Hansen, West Fargo.

Instructor Contact Information

If you would like to be added to our Email distribution list, send me an email address! Please ensure that we have your correct contact information! We do get calls from students that need additional information specific to your course and they should be able to contact you. Call Steph, HE administrative assistant, at 701-328-6615 or 800-421-8358 or mail in the form on the back of the newsletter.

Federal & State Range Grants

If you have shooting organizations (gun or bow) in your city, and they are interested in receiving grant money for improvements to local shooting ranges, contact me! I have several organizations that have inquired about the process and I want to ensure that everyone is aware of this great opportunity so that we can spread the wealth. It's not millions of dollars, but it can be a real boost to your local range & community!



WHERE ARE YOUR STUDENTS HUNTING? Do they know about the dangers of hunting on or near the tracks? Railroad property is private property, and very dangerous. *Make sure they are informed.*



Invite an Operation Lifesaver presenter to your class for a free railroad safety presentation. Call 701-223-6372 or visit our website at www.ndsc.org/operationlifesaver to learn more.



Cavalier HE course, April 9, 2009 – Instructors Melvin and Rodney Stark, Tom Simmons, Kenneth Schwandt and Patricia Stark, Game Warden Mike Sedlacek and Mountain Man/Historian Lawrence Wolf. Thank you to the Cavalier Public School staff and Cavalier Ambulance Service.





Rugby's HE graduating "Class of 2009" is all smiles after receiving their Saf-T-Plugs and binoculars. The binoculars and rifles were donated by Hardware Hank of Rugby, everyone got a pair of binoculars and 2 lucky students were drawn to win the rifles. A great way to end the course and send them out into the field - best of luck and be safe!
— Greg Odden, Instructor

Trailblazer Adventure Sweepstakes Fundraising Program

Sign up today for the Trailblazer Adventure Sweepstakes fundraising program. It's your chance to make money for your organization and help fund an education program that brings the thrill of outdoor sports to youth and families.

The Trailblazer Adventure Sweepstakes is one of the biggest fundraisers used by sportsmen's clubs, shooting teams and 4-H clubs. Organizations pay **nothing** to join the program and there is **no investment or risk**. Your organization's only job is to have members promote sweepstakes tickets and **your organization keeps 50 percent of the proceeds**. All completed ticket stubs and money must be turned in by December 14, 2009, so **you have all year** to make money for your 2009-10 projects.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance handles all administrative chores - notification of prize winners, prize distribution, rounds up all the prizes, etc. In addition, an independent accounting firm administers the sweepstakes and performs the prize drawing. Research by a law firm ensures the legality of the program in every state. Tickets and training materials are provided for your members. **Your only job is to promote the sweepstakes and make money.**

Clubs that work hard have made thousands of dollars through this fundraiser!

What is the incentive for someone to buy a ticket? The Trailblazer Sweepstakes Grand Prize is a two-year lease on a 2010 Toyota Tundra 4x4 truck or \$10,000 cash. Many USSA supporters have donated additional prizes including hunting trips, firearms, bows, knives and optics.

Make money for your organization by signing up today! Contact Kari Waters at (614) 888-4868 ext. 201 or kwaters@ussportsmen.org to get involved.

Check out their website: US Sportsmen's Alliance, www.ussportsmen.org

Third Hand Archery – Tree Stand Gun Hoist

To all Hunter Safety Instructors; Thank You. Thank you for your time and effort in teaching the proper way to get a firearm up to a tree stand. It was several years ago when a friend shot himself pulling a firearm up a tree. I never really thought about it before it happened to a friend. If he had used a gun hoist he would still be around. That is a heck of a price to pay for not using one. We will be offering to all hunter safety instructors our tree stand gun hoist for \$10.00. This includes mailing in the Continental U.S. This just basically covers our cost of production, insurance and shipping. If your instruction, with our product saves just one life, it will be well worth it.

If you would like extras to use as incentives etc. we will sell them by the dozen for \$102.00, \$8.50 each plus shipping. Buy 6 dozen and get a price of \$468.00. That is \$650 each plus shipping.

You may call direct or order on line at www.thirdhandarchery.com. A video of the gun hoist is on our web sight, or you can go to utube and search tree stand gun hoist. Thanks again for all your help.

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Let the air out, and watch em drop... Jim
Third Hand Archery
1-800-339-0232
Local 1-859-384-2732
Cell 859-912-1058

Youth Deer Season Questions and Answers for 2009

During the 2009 session, North Dakota's legislature lowered the minimum age for hunting deer with a firearm (centerfire rifle, handgun or muzzleloader) from 14 to age 12.

However, the bill, SB 2165, created restrictions on when and what 12- and 13-year-olds could hunt. Following are some questions and answers to help clarify the issue. Important note: nothing has changed for ages 14 or 15.

What license is available for a 12- or 13-year-old?

One antlerless whitetail license, valid statewide

When can 12- and 13-year-olds hunt deer (antlerless whitetail) with a firearm?

Only during the youth deer season, Sept. 18-27 in 2009

What is the application deadline for 12- and 13-year-olds?

The license application deadline for 12- and 13-year-olds is Sept. 1

How do I apply?

Until approximately July 1, only paper applications are available through the Department and vendors. Additionally, you can print an application from our website. The online application feature will not be available for these licenses until after July 1 because of the need to make software programming changes.

What is the application deadline for 14- and 15-year-olds?

For the regular deer gun season lottery and for the youth "I" license that allows taking of a mule deer buck in several southwestern units (3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E or 4F), the license application deadline is June 3.

For the youth "H" license, good statewide for any deer except mule deer bucks in 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E or 4F, the application deadline is Sept. 1.

Is the license my 12- or 13-year-old receives considered a youth season license?

No. A youth season license is defined as a deer gun license for 14- or 15-year-old first-time deer hunters that is valid statewide for any deer, with the exception of antlered mule deer (issued by lottery) in select southwest units.

If my 12- or 13-year-old receives an antlerless whitetail license, will he/she remain eligible for a youth season license at age 14?

Yes, 14- or 15-year-olds are still eligible for a once-in-a-lifetime statewide any-deer license if they received an antlerless whitetail license when they were 12 or 13.

Can hunters ages 14 or 15 use additional concurrent season antlerless licenses within the youth deer season?

Yes, but only in conjunction with their youth season license. 15-year-olds who had a youth season license are not eligible to hunt during the youth deer season.

Can hunters age 12 or 13 purchase additional concurrent season antlerless licenses to use within the youth deer season?

No, 12- and 13-year-olds are limited to a single antlerless whitetail license valid only during the dates of the youth deer season. However, they can still purchase concurrent licenses for use with a bow in the archery season.

When is the earliest my son/daughter can apply for a youth season license?

The year they are age 14 on opening day of the November deer gun season.

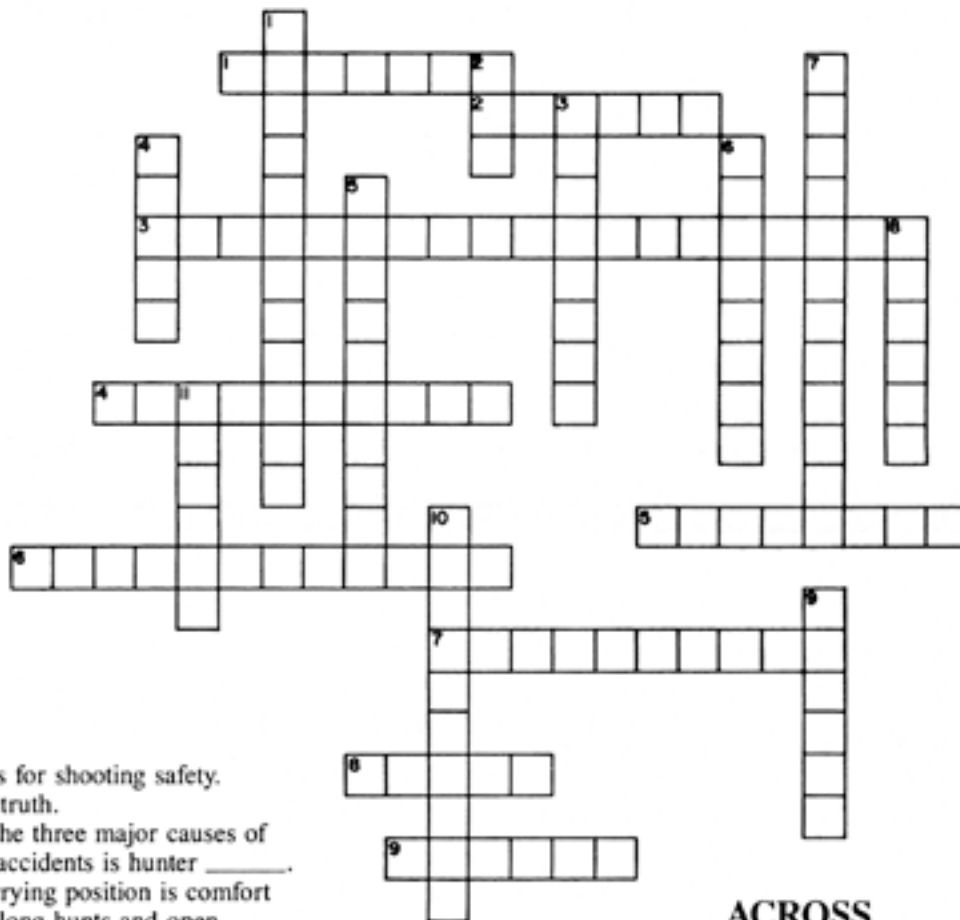
My son/daughter turns 14 after the youth season opens but before the November deer gun season. Is he/she eligible to apply for and hunt in the youth season?

Yes, this was a recent change by the state legislature. (Side note for staff—there's a possibility that an individual could qualify for a 12-13-year-old antlerless whitetail license and a youth deer license. Only one of these will be issued, not both. If the hunter chooses the antlerless whitetail/youth season only option, he or she will still be eligible for the any-deer youth season license the following year.)

Safety Crossword Puzzle

While searching the archives for old newsletter articles and pictures, I came across this crossword puzzle (dated Feb 1987). The first 5 good solutions sent back will receive something, not sure what...I'll figure it out if and when I get any back! We attempted the puzzle here in the office and are stumped with one answer, so we'll see who gets it right. (I don't have the solution, so the best answers win!)

SAFETY CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Ten rules for shooting safety.
2. Not the truth.
3. One of the three major causes of hunting accidents is hunter _____.
4. This carrying position is comfortable for long hunts and open country.
5. Another of the three major causes of hunting accidents: safety _____.
6. The third major cause of hunting accidents: lack of skill or _____.
7. The second safe step in loading a firearm is to check the barrel for _____.
8. The key word in avoiding accidents.
9. When running, jumping, or climbing, remember to _____ your firearm.
10. When hunting in a group, hunters should choose their own _____.
11. The dominant eye.

ACROSS

1. In firearm safety, muzzle _____ is very important.
2. The result of many hunting accidents.
3. It is important to know the _____ of any game you hunt.
4. This should be the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
5. During target practice, make sure your _____ is adequate.
6. Tired eyes that see only straight ahead.
7. Another name for judging distance.
8. Gun.
9. A hunter's safety color.

INSTRUCTOR'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:

If you move, please be sure to notify us. Email changes to sthompso@nd.gov or complete the attached form and mail to:
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Hunter Education
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

NEW ADDRESS:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone No. _____

(Detach and return)

Instructor Resources

- Enclosed with your newsletter are the new issues of the IHEA Journal and Hunter's Handbook. The Journal has several good articles on classroom instruction and information that you can use - training resources and equipment discounts. We have 2,000 Hunter's Handbooks that you can hand out to your students, let us know how many you want and we will ship them with your materials.
- Check out page 69 of the Hunter's Handbook – students, instructors and program administrators are eligible to win one of many prizes. North Dakota had a winner drawn this past year, so it never hurts to register!
- Work continues on an on-line Instructor Training Course, we hope to see the product in Sep/Oct for our initial review. This site can be customized for each state with Game & Fish and Hunter Education information.
- We recently received a link to a great video clip produced by California Waterfowl entitled "Why Hunt". They use waterfowl to get the point across on the connection between humans and hunting. It is a great lesson for everyone, especially youth and the growing populations of non-hunters. Please take a look at this video and use it as an educational tool in the classroom or local wildlife club. I contacted California Waterfowl and they are sending me a hard copy that we will be able to reproduce and use in the classroom. If you are interested in a copy, let us know and we are working to get things like this posted on our website so that you can use that too!

To view it, copy and paste the link below into your browser bar –

<http://www.calwaterfowl.org/web2/programs/heritage/whyhuntvideo.htm>

- Don't forget, the newsletter is now posted on our website, under the Instructor log-in tab! (!huntered/Enroll1)



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Hunter Education Program
Jon Hanson, Gun Safety Coordinator



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